

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6415

INFO GOVERNOR PANCANAL

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 0417

LIMDIS

STATE PASS OSD/ISA AND JCS

FOR MINISTER BELL AND GENERAL DOLVIN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PN, PQ, PFOR,

SUBJECT: PANAMA CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: MEETING WITH
FABREGA

1. EMBASSY ARRANGED MEETING WITH IHRE DIRECTOR EDWIN
FABREGA ON JANUARY 19 AT REQUEST LT. COL. ROBERT MERRICK FOR
PURPOSE OF CLARIFYING QUESTIONS U.S. MILITARY HAD CONCERNING
PANAMA'S LANDS AND WATERS CONCEPT. EMBASSY POLITICAL
COUNSELOR BLACKEN AND JERRY WELCH OF PANCANAL PARTICIPATED
IN MEETING IN ADDITION TO MERRICK.

2. FABREGA CONFIRMED THAT THE LANDS AND WATERS UNDER THE
RUBRIC "AREAS OF COORDINATION" WOULD HAVE SEVERAL
DIFFERENT AGREEMENTS COVERING THEM, DEPENDING UPON
THEIR NATURE, USE AND LOCATION. THUS THE AREAS
DESIGNATED FOR THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION'S ACTIVITIES
WOULD HAVE A DIFFERENT ARRANGEMENT THAN WOULD MILITARY
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TRAINING AREAS. AN APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE

WORKED OUT TO FIT EACH ACTIVITY. AGREEMENTS ON THE DURATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL AREA ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE WORKED OUT. SOME MIGHT BE CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE LIFETIME OF THE TREATY; OTHERS WOULD TERMINATE SOONER, DEPENDING UPON NEED AND THE TERMS AGREED UPON.

3. MERRICK TOLD FABREGA THAT THE U.S. WAS NOT PREPARED TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS AT LEVEL OF THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP THIS WEEK. FABREGA CONCURRED IN THIS AND EXPRESSED A STRONG PREFERENCE FOR COMPLETING THE PROCEDURAL AGREEMENT ON LANDS AND WATERS BEFORE PROCEEDING TO WORK AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL. HE WAS PREPARED TO CONTINUE THESE DISCUSSIONS AS SOON AS GENERAL DOLVIN COULD COME TO PANAMA. HE JUDGED IT WOULD TAKE AT LEAST TWO OR THREE DAYS OF WORK TO REACH AGREEMENT. MERRICK SAID POSSIBLY DOLVIN COULD COME TO PANAMA NEXT WEEK.

4. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT FABREGA DOES NOT BELIEVE IT APPROPRIATE TO WORK OUT DETAILS ON LANDS AND WATERS UNTIL THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK IS ESTABLISHED.

5. MERRICK CONCURS IN THIS MESSAGE.
JORDEN

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